

# CALIFORNIA STORIES OF HOPE:

## Advancing Social Justice through Student Success

February 10, 2022 | 9.30 am - 12.30 pm PT



Socially Just Design in Postsecondary Education: A Call to Action

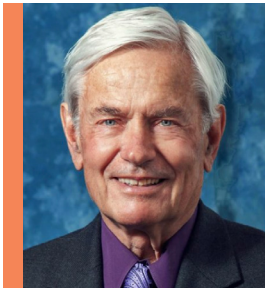
## AGENDA

<b>9.30 PT</b>	<b>Welcome and Land Acknowledgment</b> <b>Brandon Smith</b>   Assistant Vice President, Gardner Institute
<b>9.35 PT</b>	<b>Opening Remarks</b> <b>John Gardner</b>   Founder and Executive Chair, Gardner Institute <b>John Whiteley</b>   Professor of Social Ecology, University of California, Irvine
<b>9.40 PT</b>	<b>Discussion with Andrew Koch</b> <b>Andrew K. Koch</b>   Chief Executive Officer, Gardner Institute <i>Socially Just Design in Postsecondary: A Call to Action – Colleges and universities in the twenty-first century are not designed to optimally advance social justice and equity goals. One need only examine both who gets to go to college and who ultimately completes a postsecondary credential to see that race/ethnicity and family income determine far too much about who does and does not become a “college graduate.” Changing this inequitable reality requires colleges, universities, and educators of all kinds to actively and intentionally embrace socially just design in postsecondary education and to operationalize socially just design in the various subsystems – academic advising, academic labor, courses and the curriculum, transfer, etc. – that make up the broader postsecondary education system.</i>
<b>10.20 PT</b>	<b>Q&amp;A with John Gardner</b>
<b>10.45 PT</b>	<b>Break</b>
<b>10.50 PT</b>	<b>Panel Discussion: Sharing Approaches and Thoughts to Socially Just Design</b> <b>Isis Artze-Vega</b>   Provost & VP, Academic Affairs, Valencia College <b>Edward Ayers</b>   President Emeritus and director of New American History, University of Richmond <b>Reggie Ellis</b>   Interim Dean School of Graduate Studies and Research, Florida A & M University <b>Aryelle Jacobsen</b>   Student, University of North Carolina Asheville <b>Makayla Towns</b>   Student, University of North Carolina Asheville
<b>11.35 PT</b>	<b>Discussion with Carlos Ayala</b> <b>Carlos Ayala</b>   President and CEO, Growing Inland Achievement <i>Supporting Equitable Student Success: A Regional Approach – Learn about Growing Inland Achievement’s work in the Inland Empire region to support equitable goals for student success.</i>
<b>12.10 PT</b>	<b>Q&amp;A</b>
<b>12.25 PT</b>	<b>Closing Remarks</b>

## Event Hosts



**John Gardner** | John is an educator, university professor and administrator, founder of two non-profit organizations, author, public speaker, consultant, public intellectual and thought leader, change agent, student retention specialist, first-year, sophomore, transfer, and senior year students' advocate, initiator and scholar of multiple undergraduate education reform movements and...a continuing active participant in the unfinished civil rights movement. He serves as Founder and Executive Chair of the John N. Gardner Institute for Excellence in Undergraduate Education. The Institute was founded by John and his wife, Betsy O. Barefoot, in October 1999 as the Policy Center on the First Year of College which was an outgrowth of their previous pioneering work at the University of South Carolina.



**John Whiteley** | John M. Whiteley has been an administrator and professor at the University of California, Irvine since 1972. His research includes the clash between citizen expression of concern which conflicts sharply with the national security imperatives of the U.S. government, moral development from late adolescence to early adult development, social ecology of peace, character and community in the college years, history of the profession of counseling psychology, quest for peace, and security in the 21st century. He has published two volumes--with a third in process--on moral and intellectual maturation during the college years.

## Presenters



**Andrew K. Koch** | Drew Koch is a child of immigrants who came to the United States in pursuit of a better life for their family. His first language was not English, and postsecondary education was valued by his family as a means for realizing the American Dream. He is a staunch advocate and leader of efforts that increase student access to and, ultimately, completion of postsecondary education. He has worked in and with higher education institutions for nearly 30 years. He has done so since 2010 at the Gardner Institute where he was recently named as Chief Executive Officer.

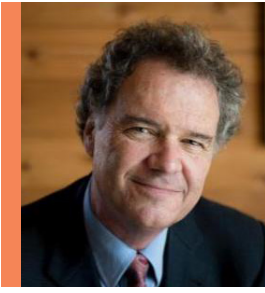


**Carlos Ayala** | Dr. Carlos Ayala, an educator, administrator and former dean of California State University, Sonoma's College of Education, is the President and CEO of Growing Inland Achievement (GIA), an education collaborative focused on improving the economic outlook of the Inland Empire by raising the region's educational attainment rates. As dean, he helped create an early childhood studies major, a Maker Educator Certificate Program, financial literacy program, and led the school through a national accreditation with four commendations. He served as chair of the Education Deans group and co-led an effort to create Maker Spaces supporting innovation, building, creativity and problem solving across all 23 CSU campuses. Dr. Ayala brings deep knowledge of the education landscape, strong leadership and a passion to positively impact student lives.

## Panelists



**Isis Artze-Vega** | Isis Artze-Vega, Ed.D. serves as college provost and vice president for academic affairs at Valencia College in Central Florida, a Hispanic-Serving Institution that serves about 70,000 students annually and has long been regarded one of the nation's best community colleges. She provides strategic leadership for the areas of curriculum, assessment, faculty development, distance learning, career and workforce education, and partnerships for educational equity. Prior to joining Valencia, Isis served as assistant vice president for teaching and learning at Florida International University (FIU), leading such efforts as a gateway course project, a hybrid course initiative, and the comprehensive redesign of teaching evaluation. Most importantly, she is the proud wife of visual artist Sinuhe Vega; the proud mami of Kamilah, 13, and Delilah, 11.



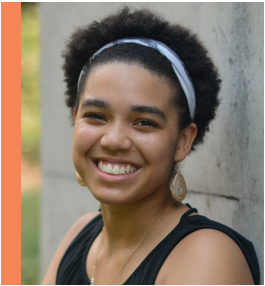
**Edward Ayers** | Edward Ayers has been named National Professor of the Year, received the National Humanities Medal from President Obama at the White House, served as president of the Organization of American Historians, and won the Bancroft Prize for distinguished writing in American history. He served as the founding chair of the board of the American Civil War Museum. Ed is host of *The Future of America's Past*, a television series that visits sites of memory and meets the people who keep those memories alive. He is the Executive Director of *New American History*, an online project based at the University of Richmond, designed to help students and teachers to see the nation's history in new ways. His newest book is *Southern Journey: The Migrations of the American South, 1790-2020*.



**Reggie Ellis** | Reginald Ellis is Interim Dean, School of Graduate Studies and Research at Florida A&M University. Dr. Ellis specializes in the history of Historically Black Colleges and Universities and African American leaders during the Jim Crow era. Along with his academic services, Dr. Ellis remains active in the community by participating in a number of capacities. He was recently elected to serve on the board of directors of the Florida Humanities Council and is a member of Leadership Tallahassee Class 31. Dr. Ellis remains active in a variety of organizations including the Gamma Mu Lambda Chapter of Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity and a host of historical associations including the Association for the Study of African American Life and History and the Southern Conference on African and African American Studies. Reggie believes that the professional division is a vital resource that functions in support of all historians.



**Aryelle Jacobsen** | Aryelle Jacobsen is a senior at UNC Asheville studying Health Equity. In her free time, she enjoys Olympic weightlifting and hiking. After graduation, Aryelle plans to continue advocating for equity and justice wherever she lands.



**Makayla Towns** | Makayla Towns is a junior at UNC Asheville majoring in Mass Communications and minoring in Creative Writing. In her free time, Makayla enjoys reading, writing poetry and short stories, and stargazing. After graduation, Makayla plans to pursue a career in writing and video production.



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